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June 21, 2002

## **SR 127 paving coming up**

Contractors for the Washington State Department of Transportation will begin a resurfacing project on State Route 127 in July. The project begins at Milepost 18 (about 1.5 miles south of the Hay junction/Big Alkalai Road) and extends north to State Route 26 at Dusty. This section of highway was last paved in 1987.

Sign and guardrail work will get underway on July 8<sup>th</sup>. There may be some minor lane restrictions and short delays in the immediate areas of the work.

Roadway paving will begin on Monday, July 15 in a 3-mile section that is showing significant deterioration due to subsurface conditions. This first section requires a special preparation process called, "cold in-place recycling." In this process, the existing pavement is ground out, mixed with an asphalt oil, and reapplied as a roadway base layer.

This layer needs a curing period where, although vehicles can travel on the new surface, traffic speeds must be limited to prevent damage to the new surface. For the first four days of paving, through July 19, pilot vehicles will guide motorists through the area 24 hours per day.

All other sections will receive a "chip seal" base layer to seal the pavement before the entire project is overlaid with a "SuperPave" asphalt layer. This should take place throughout the month of July. The SuperPave asphalt mix is a more durable pavement that is more suited to sections that have heavy truck traffic.

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Also, because the special cold in-place recycling process is being used during part of this project, this work was specifically scheduled during the warmer summer months as this process requires a pavement surface temperature of at least 90 degrees when it is rolled. The hotter weather will enable the contractor to construct a more durable surface.

The Department is also well aware that the contractor will be working on this highway section during the harvest period, unfortunately, the project could not be scheduled any earlier or later in the year due to the pavement specification requirements, which includes dry weather and warm temperatures. Asphalt pavement is temperature sensitive and must be laid down during warm, dry days; otherwise the pavement will not compact properly and will fail rapidly. Coincidentally, grain ripens and is harvested in the same warm summer temperatures of July and August.

The Department is working with the contractor on methods to minimize traffic interruption during this project, although there will be some delays. But, there will always be one lane open. There are also some other possibilities that the Department is exploring with the contractor that may assist in minimizing delays; while the construction work is underway.

When all paving is complete the contractor will finish up with shoulder and safety items. In addition to regular paint stripes, reflective centerline markers will be installed. These markers are placed in a recessed pocket that is ground into the pavement. These markers add a margin of safety during night and inclement weather driving.

Inland Asphalt Company of Spokane is the prime contractor on this \$1.2 million project.

For a week-by-week update on this project and others in the WSDOT Eastern Region, visit our web site at: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/regions/eastern/WeeklyUpdates.cfm>

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